

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, May 2, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Council Member Carl Brewer
Gerald Domitrovic
Treatha Brown-Foster
Lois Tully-Gerber
Lori Lawrence
Debra K. Miller Stevens
Debby Moore
Sharon Myers*
Steve Roberts
James Thompson
LaVonta Williams

Members Absent

Guests

Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman
Beverly Domitrovic, Schweiter NA
John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston
Norma Smith, 2427 Menlo
Joann Hartig, 1756 S. Main
Beverly Domitrovic, SNA
Loretta Hardin, 1903 McFarland
Lula Utsey, 2541 N. Minneapolis
Delois Walker, 813 N. Water
Mary Parnell, 1355 N. Chautauqua
Chuck Myers, 6905 Rushwood Circle

***Alternates**

City of Wichita Staff Present

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant
Officer Judi Jones, WPD
Sgt. M. Russell, WPD
Officer Floyd, WPD
Officer Rose, WPD

Order of Business

Call to Order

Council Member Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed the guests. He asked that those who wished to address the board would please state their name and address and keep their remarks limited to five minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Myers made a correction on Page 2 of the minutes. She stated that she expressed appreciation for the report on Beat 46 not Beat 47.

Brown Foster (Tully Gerber) made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried 8-0.

Approval of Agenda

Norma Smith, (address) asked to address the board on large dogs and **Earline Jackson, (address)** asked to address the board concerning loud music.

Council Member Brewer stated that the Police Report would be first on the Public Agenda. **Brewer (Roberts)** to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried 8-0.

Public Agenda

1. **Norma Smith, 2427 Menlo**, that her neighborhood has large, aggressive dogs that chase, snarl, and growl at residents. She explained that the owner has a fenced-in yard, but it is not sufficient enough to properly contain the animals. Ms. Smith had to spend \$430 to protect herself by installing a fence on her side of the property as a barrier. The dogs in question are Pit Bull and Doberman cross. These dogs were released from their chains after the leash law came into effect and as a result one of the dogs bit a neighbor. The owner had that dog killed. Smith added that she has called Animal Control and the Health Department several times and nothing has happened.

(Ms. Smith's response in italics)

Brewer asked for the address where the dogs live. *Ms. Smith responded 2421 Menlo.* Council Member Brewer asked that Ms. Smith get with the Community Police Officers in hopes to resolve this issue.

2. **Earline Jackson, 1328 North Chautauqua**, stated that she attended the meeting with three of her neighbors who are concerned about: 1) extremely loud music from cars during the week from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; 2) a drug house on the block where the owners have said that all they want is their money; and 3) two problem properties at 1325 and 1331 North Chautauqua. Ms. Jackson asked for the board's support.

(Ms. Jackson's response is in italics)

Williams asked if there is a neighborhood association in the area and if not would you consider a block-by-block approach? *There is no association at this time, because no one wants to lead. The block has senior citizens who do not want to lead an association. There are a lot of disturbances in 1200 block of Chautauqua.* Williams asked what happened when the police were called? *They come out and the music stops for about five minutes after the police leaves.* **Brown Foster** asked if there were any other neighbors in the block that would be willing to start a neighborhood association. *We are mostly sick elderly people and I don't know if there is anyone able to take on the task.* **Brewer** advised Ms. Smith to get with the Officer Jones and tell her your information.

The board received and filed.

Staff Reports

3. Police Report

Officer Mo Floyd, 23 Beat, reported: 1) a prostitution sting took place on April 15th and 9 arrests and multiple drug charges were issued; 2) at the request of South Central Improvement Alliance, they did a housing assessment and found 114 vacant houses within their boundaries. Drug addicts, vagrants, etc. live in some of these houses. This list was sent to Council Member Brewer and Deb Legge, OCI; 3) there is a problem house that has had an OCI sticker on it since 1987, which is an issue that has gone on

much too long; 4) there are several properties that need demolition, but there needs to be more teeth in the law; and 5) SCIA is looking at revitalizing that area.

Officer Rose said he is working with the construction company of the Waterwalk and Gander Mountain in order to keep theft and possible injuries to a minimum. Construction sites are appealing to kids who may step in a hole accidentally.

(Officers Floyd's response is in italics)

Tully Gerber asked if tax records were pulled on the 114 vacant properties and inquired about why out of state property owners has anything to do with property here? *It takes a lot of chasing to track someone down and that they had not pulled the records on all of them, but eventually that will happen. If property owners are out of state, they can hire someone to just "show progress" in order to not have the property torn down. This is happening a lot.* **Moore** asked would most of the houses be mid to low income? *There are a lot of cottage type houses, as well as, Victorian styles. There is a lot of historic significance down there.* **Brewer** commented that he has forwarded the information given him to the WPD Chief and Mary Kay Vaughn, Housing. Housing is working on a plan with the court systems to deal with housing issues.

Officer Judith Jones, Patrol North, Beat 43, reported the following: 1) there is a new Community Police Lieutenant at Patrol North – Lt. Nolte. Also, Sgt. Alex Robinson transferred to Patrol East and a new sergeant will be coming on board; 2) 42 Beat, Officer Kimble, is working undercover on a drug/prostitution sting; 3) 43 Beat, Officer Jones, is working on the Pet in Crisis Program where the pets of domestic violence victims would receive free of charge boarding. This program is going bureau wide; 4) 44 Beat, Officer Seang, working with the Gang Unit and plans to host a seminar at Heights High School; 5) 45 Beat is still an open beat with no officer assigned at this time. However, there is still the partnership with Quik Trip at 13th and Oliver; 6) 46 Beat, Officer Parker, working on graffiti issues; 7) 47 Beat, Officer Wallace, working on park issues and graffiti cleanup in the park.

(Officer Jones response is in italics)

Brown Foster asked what is happening with the noise issues? *We are writing tickets when we catch the violators.* **Moore** asked why the media couldn't be encouraged to publicize the noise ordinance? *We can look at that suggestion and forward it on.* **Tully Gerber** asked if they ever confiscated the boom boxes? *No, it is only illegal in regards to the noise.* **Williams** thanked Officer Parker for the great job he has done in their area. She told about her experience in calling in a noise violator from Quik Trip and the officers asking her for a description of the car and the direction it was traveling. *We usually give people a warning first. If the violation continues, then we issue a ticket.* **Brewer** inquired about the Heartsprings area and the six duplexes in that area. He asked if WPD had received any phone calls in regards to the property? *I will check into that and let you know.* **Brewer** added that WPD held a meeting at Atwater NCH and addressed the gang situation and they are working aggressively to confiscate a huge number of guns. WPD has been given the green light to pick up violators. They are doing a great job. *Our Gang Unit and SCAT are doing a wonderful job. I will pass it on to them that you said that. We are ready and preparing to protect at the River Festival.* **Tully Gerber** stated that she appreciated the article in the paper several weeks ago on reporting gangs. **Thompson** asked if they would be using horses during the River Festival? *Yes, we are activating the Mounting Unit.* **Brewer** asked if they would have

the Tasers? *I am not sure, because we don't have them yet.* Brewer stated that for the most part it is a good investment. Tasers should save a lot of lives and suicides.

There was a brief discussion again concerning loose dogs and the role of WPD, Animal Control and the Health Department. Officer Jones encouraged Ms. Norma Smith to have all three entities speak with her neighbor with her. Also, to call 911 and the dispatch will contact an officer to come out.

Brewer commented that the City Council reviewed the last leash law and Kay Johnson, Environmental Health Director, is addressing this issue. He added that there was once a task force created and people from the outside give their view and we ended up with a soft law. **Officer Jones** commented that we recognize the fact that there is a problem and technically, we only have three staff doing the pickup. Other cities have a ratio of 1 officer to every 25,000 people. In District 1, we have at least 26,000 homes and share three officers citywide. **Brewer** suggested that Kay Johnson be invited to the next DAB meeting to address this issue.

Joann Hartig, 1756 S, Main, said that an e-mail or letter could be sent to all neighborhood associations inviting them to the next DAB meeting. She said that this issue is important to many neighborhoods.

4. District 1 Award

- a) **Council Member Carl Brewer** and the District Advisory Board presented the Outstanding Contribution to Community Improvement Award to **Dorothy Nave, President of Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association**.
- b) **Council Member Carl Brewer** presented certificates to the District Advisory Board members for their year of service. He thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the City at large. Brewer stated that he realizes his requirements are more demanding, because he requires each board member to become involved in issues that not only involve our District, but our entire city. He said that he is proud that everyone stepped up to the plate and each of them has made him proud.

5. Off-agenda items

No item submitted.

Unfinished Business

No items submitted

New Business

No items submitted

Board Agenda

6. Updates, Issues, and Reports

- **Council Member Brewer** stated that each June we go through the process of yearly DAB appointments. DAB 1 is seldom changed because you are a very knowledgeable board that works hard and has very good attendance. Thank you again for all of your efforts. With that said, make sure you submit your resume to Virdena for reappointment. He then thanked Virdena for all of her creative ideas and hard work to make his job easier.

- **Virdena Gilkey, staff**, encouraged recruitment of youth to serve as board members and asked for nominations from DAB members and neighborhood associations.
- **Brewer** commented that he wants to know how they feel about the removal of those brick duplexes in the Heartspring's area. He needs at least two representatives to research that idea.
- **Brewer** reported that the new Public Information Officer is Vann Williams, formerly of the Wichita Eagle for 13 years. He encouraged the board to congratulate him when they saw him.
- **Brewer** announced that the next DAB 1 meeting is June 6, 2005 and the next District 1 Coalition Breakfast Meeting is June 7th.
- **Roberts** announced that the new neighborhood association, Crestview Heights, has replaced Chisholm Creek. May 16th will be the election of officers.
- **Moore** stated that although she frequently discusses the noise issue, WPD is doing a pretty good job of controlling noise.
- **Brown Foster** reported that the gathering for Maci Houston, Regional Director of HUD, went very well. She said the food at Cisro's was wonderful and asked that everyone be sure and support this restaurant in our community.
- **Gilkey, staff**, encouraged everyone to remain for cookies and punch after the meeting in honor of the board who had served so diligently.

The board received and filed.

With no further business, **Brown Foster (Roberts)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virdena Gilkey
Neighborhood Assistant